

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H.R. 1000—Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the
21st Century (Conference Report)**

**H.R. 3843—Small Business Reauthorization Act
Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1501 (Consequences for Juvenile
Offenders Act)**

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**H.R. 1000—Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment & Reform Act for the 21st
Century (Conference Report)**

Floor Situation: The House will consider the conference report to H.R. 1000 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration.

Summary: The conference report to H.R. 1000 authorizes approximately \$40 billion over three years through FY 2003 for the airport improvement program (AIP), air traffic control facilities and equipment, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations. Of this amount, \$33 billion will be allocated from the aviation trust fund and nearly \$7 billion will be “available for appropriation” from the general fund. The measure establishes a series of parliamentary points of order designed to effectively guarantee authorized funding levels for aviation programs. Specifically, any lawmaker may raise a point of order against an appropriations bill if all aviation trust fund money (receipts and interest) is not allocated to fund aviation programs. It also allows any lawmaker to raise a point of order against an appropriations bill that does not fully fund the conference report’s AIP and facilities and equipment spending authorizations.

The conference agreement includes no measures to guarantee a funding level for FAA operations, so it must compete with other agencies for its budget operating requirements. However, if the Appropriations Committee fully funds the authorized amounts for FAA operations in the conference report, it will appropriate \$33 billion from the trust fund and \$7 billion from the general fund for the AIP, facilities and equipment, and FAA operations.

The conference report includes a number of measures to increase airline competition. Specifically, it eliminates slot restrictions at LaGuardia and JFK Airports after January 1, 2007, and at O'Hare Airport after July 1, 2002. In addition, the measure requires the Transportation Department to provide exemptions to any airline flying to O'Hare and the two New York airports if it uses aircraft with 70 seats or less under certain conditions. The conference agreement also requires DOT to grant 12 slot exemptions for flights within the 1,250 perimeter of Reagan National Airport and an additional 12 slot exemptions for flights outside the perimeter.

The conference agreement authorizes \$224 million in FY 2000, \$237 million in FY 2001, and \$249 million in FY 2002 for civil aviation research, engineering, and development activities at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It also reforms current FAA management practices, establishes a number of whistleblower protections for FAA employees, creates a loan guarantee program to help airlines buy regional jets if they agree to use them to serve small airports, and allows airports to levy a passenger facility charge of up to \$4.50 per passenger (up from the current \$3) under certain conditions.

Finally, the measure includes a number of environmental initiatives, including increasing funding for noise abatement projects, funding a program to encourage airports to use low-emission vehicles, and establishing procedures to quiet air tours over national parks.

The House passed H.R. 1000 (*H.Rept. 106-167, Pts. I & II*) by a vote of 316-110 on June 15, 1999. The Senate passed its version (S. 82; *S.Rept. 106-9*) by voice vote on October 5, 1999. The Senate passed the conference report on March 8 by a vote of 82-17.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #6, March 10, 2000; and Vol. XXVIII, #17, June 11, 1999.

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H.R. 3843—Small Business Reauthorization Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 3843 after it finishes considering the conference report to H.R. 1000. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Small Business Committee. The rule accords priority in recognition to those members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 3843 reauthorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the programs of the Small Business Act (*P.L. 83-163*) and the Small Business Investment Act (*P.L. 85-699*) through FY 2003. The bill reauthorizes, modifies, and strengthens the SBA's financial programs, including the general business loan guarantee program, the Certified Development Company program, the Microloan program, and the Small Business Investment Company program. In addition, the bill reauthorizes the technical assis-

tance and procurement programs of the SBA, including the Women's Business Center program and the Small Business Development Center program.

Specifically, the measure authorizes:

- * \$14.5 billion for FY 2001, \$15 billion for FY 2002, and \$16 billion for FY 2003 for the 7(a) loan program;
- * \$4 billion for FY 2001, \$4.5 billion for FY 2002, and \$5 billion for FY 2003 for the Certified Development Company (CDC) program. The measure reauthorizes and modifies the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program, and sets new authorization levels for both debentures and securities. For debentures, the bill authorizes \$1.5 billion for FY 2001, \$2.5 billion for FY 2002, and \$3 billion for FY 2003. For securities, it authorizes \$2.5 billion for FY 2001, \$3.5 billion for FY 2002, and \$4 billion for FY 2003; and
- * \$60 million for direct loans in FY 2001, \$80 million in FY 2002, and \$100 million in FY 2003 for the Microloan program. The measure also authorizes \$50 million for technical assistance loans in FY 2001, \$70 million in FY 2002, and \$90 million in FY 2003.

Finally, the bill reauthorizes a number of other programs like the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) programs, the Drug-Free Workplace Program, the HUBZone program, the Women's Business Enterprise Development Programs, the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), and extends the Very Small Business Concerns and the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Business programs.

An official CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The Small Business Committee reported the bill by voice vote on March 9, 2000.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments to H.R. 3843.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #6, March 10, 2000.

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Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1501 (Consequences for Juvenile Offenders Act)

Floor Situation: The House will consider a motion by **Mrs. Lofgren** to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501 after it completes consideration of H.R. 3843. Such a motion may be offered as a privileged matter after a measure has been in conference for 20 days; it is debatable for one hour. Motions to instruct are non-binding (*i.e.*, they state the House's opinion on a matter but do not *require* any particular action from House conferees).

Summary: The Lofgren motion states that conferees on H.R. 1501 should convene their first substantive meeting to offer amendments and motions within the next two weeks. The House passed H.R. 1501 by a vote of 287-139 on June 16, 1999; the Senate passed a similar measure (S. 254) by a vote of 73-25 on May 20, 1999. The House appointed conferees on July 30.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #17, June 11, 1999.

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